

he has volunteered for more than a decade. He also hopes to travel with his wife and have an opportunity to try other kinds of writing in which he won't have a deadline hanging over his head. Whatever he chooses to do in his retirement, I wish him only the best, and I thank him for his many years of service to the people of Connecticut.●

TRIBUTE TO PIETRO PARRAVANO

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Pietro Parravano, a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself not only as an outstanding commercial fisherman, but as an eloquent ambassador for the fishing industry, regionally, nationally, and abroad.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Mr. Parravano was an instructor of physics before becoming an active commercial fisherman 15 years ago. Mr. Parravano sails his vessel, the *F/V Ann-B*, from the port of Half Moon Bay in northern California.

A leader in the community, Pietro Parravano has represented the fishing industry in a variety of capacities. He has served as president of the Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association, president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and chair of the Institute for Fisheries Resources. He is also a member of both the Local Fisheries Impact Program and the California Seafood Council.

Mr. Parravano has often played an important role in shaping sustainable fishing policies. He was appointed by the Governor to the Bay-Delta Advisory Committee, has been elected commissioner to the San Mateo County Harbor Commission, and will soon serve as a United States delegate to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers to be held in India.

Time and again, his colleagues, the community, and the Government have trusted Pietro Parravano to represent the interests of fisher men and women.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Pietro Parravano upon receiving the 1997 Highliner of the Year Award, the fishing industry's highest honor.

Mr. Parravano is a credit to the fishing industry and to the State of California. I applaud his record of outstanding and dedicated public service and extend to him my sincerest appreciation for his commitment to sustainable fishing and the betterment of the lives of fishing men and women.●

THE PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH STAMP ACT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator SNOWE in introducing the Prostate Cancer Research Stamp Act of 1997 and urge the support of my colleagues. S. 1389 is a companion bill to Representative SHERROD BROWN's bill, H.R. 2545, which has 41 cosponsors.

The Prostate Cancer Research Stamp Act would authorize a new first-class

stamp priced at up to 8 cents above a regular first-class stamp. Postal patrons who choose to purchase the prostate cancer stamp will be contributing to prostate cancer research at the National Cancer Institute. As important, a special prostate cancer stamp will help to raise awareness of this disease, promote screening, and save lives.

Prostate cancer, the most common form of cancer in American men, will take 41,000 lives this year, nearly approaching the breast cancer death toll of 44,300. One of every eight is at risk of getting prostate cancer. Unfortunately, as the number of prostate cancer cases rises dramatically, research funding lags far behind what is needed to fight this disease. Although prostate cancer accounts for nearly 25 percent of diagnosed non-skin cancer, only 3.7 percent of Federal cancer research dollars are devoted to fighting it.

Apart from the important contribution to prostate cancer research, the prostate cancer stamp will raise awareness of this disease and help to persuade men over age 40 to have annual prostate exams. Prostate cancer is detectable, and when found early is often fully treatable through several different methods, including surgical removal of the prostate and radiation treatment. Men must demand both a PSA blood test and a digital-rectal exam as part of their annual medical exam. At the recent Senate Aging Committee hearing on prostate cancer, I commented that we men are such crybabies that we go out of our way to avoid medical tests. The women at the hearing erupted in laughter, but the men were pretty quiet. The fact is that prostate cancer can only be treated early if it's detected early, and the long list of survivors all say that early detection made the difference.

The sooner we enact this bill and make a postage stamp available, the greater the number of men who will get tested; and more testing means more men will survive prostate cancer.●

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WETHERSFIELD TEEN THEATER COMPANY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President. I rise today to pay tribute the Wethersfield Teen Theater Company, which is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary. This company was founded in 1988 by 15-year-old Bill Fennelly who was frustrated by the lack of opportunities in the theater for young people in the Wethersfield area, and the name of the company that Bill created indicates what makes this group so unique and special—it is run by and for teenagers.

Whether it's the director, the choreographer, or a member of the lighting crew, every member of the company must be between the ages of 11 and 21. The company members have complete artistic control over their productions, and they are also responsible for raising money and doing publicity for each play. Not only has the

Wethersfield Teen Theater given hundreds of young people an opportunity to express themselves artistically and experience the feeling of performing live on the stage; but this company also gave many young people leadership opportunities that people their age don't traditionally enjoy. People who participate in the Wethersfield Teen Theater learn lessons about personal responsibility that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

When the theater company was founded there were many doubters. Not only were people skeptical that a group of teenagers would be able to put on a quality theatrical production, there were questions about their ability to raise the money to stage a production. The Wethersfield Teen Theater put on a spring review called "On Broadway," and they were able to raise the money to stage a production of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat."

"Joseph" was major success, and in 1990, the teen theater gained the official sponsorship of the Wethersfield Recreation and Parks Department. While the sponsorship provides the company with free rehearsal and performance space, the theater company is not a budgeted program and the teens still must earn all the money required to produce each show.

Since its founding, the Wethersfield Teen Theater Company has put on a major summer and spring production every year. In addition, the company also sponsors children's workshops that are designed to get children interested in theater. They also perform at local community events, elementary schools, and hospitals.

For a decade, people have been enjoying the talent, enthusiasm, and creativity of the Wethersfield Teen Theater Company, and on January 3, 1998, the group will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with the performance of a production called "Our Time." I am certain that this production will be a great success, and I hope that this wonderful theater company will continue enriching the lives of young people in the Wethersfield area for many decades to come.●

IN MEMORY OF THE OGONI 9

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to commemorate the anniversary of the tragic deaths of nine Nigerian activists. Two years ago this week, Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni leaders were brutally executed by the regime of Gen. Sani Abacha.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a renowned playwright and author, who also happened to be the president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, or MOSOP. He and several other colleagues were arrested shortly after four rival Ogoni leaders were killed by a mob in May 1994. They were detained without charge for a year, until May 19, 1995. Then, after trials that are

widely believed to have been unfair and politically motivated, Saro-Wiwa and eight others—Barinem Kiobel, Saturday Doobee, Paul Levura, Nordu Eawo, Felix Nuate, Daniel Gbokoo, John Kpuinen and Baribor Bera—were convicted of complicity in the 1994 murders, and sentenced to death by a civil disturbances special tribunal run by the military.

Mr. President, when the death sentences of these individuals were first made public, I and many other members of Congress asked General Abacha to have mercy and exercise his prerogative of executive clemency. We wrote to President Clinton and made calls to the Nigerian representatives to the United Nations and Washington. But, alas, our efforts were to no avail. The nine men were hanged on November 10, 1995.

Now, Mr. President, 19 other Ogoni activists remain in prison in Nigeria on the same trumped up charges and could face a similar fate. According to reports from several human rights organizations, the Ogoni 19 have been severely beaten and tortured, and many are suffering from ill health. They reportedly are kept in insanitary prison conditions, are denied food and medical treatment, and rarely, if at all, are granted access to outside visitors, including their lawyers. This lack of contact has stalled attempts to have the detainees released on bail or brought to trial before ordinary, civilian courts. The situation is so dire that, in August, the detainees went on a hunger strike for 10 days to protest the continuing obstructions to their release or trial. The authorities reportedly have had no response.

Alas, the deplorable condition of these Ogoni activists is not unique in Nigeria. Hundreds of individuals remain in detention centers or prisons for seemingly political motivations. The flawed judicial process that led to the 1995 death sentences is still in place and threatens the lives of these political prisoners. Numerous Nigerian laws allow for arbitrary detention for reasons ranging from "personal pique by a senior official to 'national security,'" according to information provided to me by the State Department.

With a population of more than 100 million people and vast natural resources, Nigeria has the potential to be one of the most important players on the African stage. But the military junta led by General Abacha is squandering the country's future by rampant corruption, severe economic mismanagement, and brutal policies that threaten basic freedoms. Moreover, the so-called transition program bears little hope of ensuring a transition to a fairly elected civilian government.

As we remember the lives of the Ogoni 9, let us not forget those Nigerians whose struggle for basic freedoms continues even now. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this solemn occasion. ●

RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS OF REP. FLOYD H. FLAKE

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, Adlai E. Stevenson remarked of Eleanor Roosevelt that "She would rather light candles than curse the darkness and her glow has warmed the world." So it is with my dear friend and colleague, Representative FLOYD FLAKE of Queens, who will be retiring from Congress this Saturday, November 15. Few individuals can match his accomplishments, which have materially and spiritually benefited so many. I view his departure as bittersweet. He is going home to his church, answering God's call "to a greater ministry and to a greater work," as he has put it. Surely, his congregants will be happier for his decision. But we will sorely miss him here in Congress.

Representative FLAKE was born in Los Angeles and raised in Houston—1 of 13 children born to parents with fifth- and sixth-grade educations. Modest circumstances. But in the words of an October 19, 1997 New York Times magazine article by James Traub, "they (people who told FLAKE he would never go to college) hadn't reckoned on his mother, who taught the kids how to sew and wash and cook, or his fiercely self-improving father."

Representative FLAKE received an undergraduate degree from Wilberforce University, the first black college in America, founded in 1856 in Ohio under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal [A.M.E.] Church and named after the great English statesman and abolitionist, William Wilberforce. From there, on to graduate study at Payne Theological Seminary and Northeastern University and jobs early in his career as a Head Start social worker and market analyst for Xerox.

In 1976, Representative FLAKE—barely 31—became pastor of the Allen A.M.E. Church in Jamaica, Queens. At that time, the church congregation numbered about 1,200; the church's annual budget was about \$250,000. There were three employees. Now, some 20 years later, the congregation has grown to nearly 9,000 souls. The church and its subsidiaries have an annual budget exceeding \$24 million. Tithes and offerings alone exceed \$5 million—this from a mostly middle-class congregation.

When considering Reverend FLAKE's stewardship, the Parable of the Mustard Seed comes to mind. Allen A.M.E. Church-sponsored community development enterprises now include a 300-unit apartment complex for the elderly; the Allen Christian School, which has an enrollment of some 400 elementary students—and a growing waiting list; hundreds of single-family and two-family homes; a strip mall; an office complex; a home care agency; a credit union; and a transportation company. The Allen A.M.E. Church and its subsidiaries employ 800 people. Only Kennedy Airport employs more people in the Sixth District.

In the middle of this remarkable stewardship, he earned a Doctorate of

Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, and he became a Member of Congress. He has ably represented the Sixth District, which covers southern and south-eastern Queens, since 1986. As a result of his efforts, the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration are building major facilities in the district. As a senior member of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, he has been an indefatigable architect of innovative public and private urban investment programs. While other politicians have abandoned urban communities, FLOYD FLAKE has found ways for such communities not only to survive, but to thrive. While others curse the darkness, FLOYD FLAKE lights candles.

Perhaps the capstone of his accomplishments is the new Allen A.M.E. Church cathedral on Merrick Boulevard. The \$23 million cathedral is 93,000 square feet and seats 2,500. It is the largest church structure to be built in New York City since 1954. Heinrich Heine remarked that it takes more than mere opinion to erect a cathedral, it takes conviction. Indeed it does. Reverend Flake secured a \$15 million mortgage for the project from Chase Manhattan Bank Corp.—the largest loan Chase has ever made to a religious institution. That's conviction.

Given all of these commitments, it is understandable that FLOYD FLAKE feels he must go home and minister to his church community full-time. The community will be richer for his presence. We here will be poorer.

Mr. President, the inscription on Sir Christopher Wren's tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral reads, *Si monumentum requiris circumspecte*. "If you would see the man's monument, look around." If you would see FLOYD FLAKE's monument, go to Jamaica, or to St. Alban's, or to Rosedale, or to Laurelton, or to nearly any neighborhood in Queens, and look around.

And so, to my friend, his wife Elaine, his daughters, Aliya and Nailah, and his sons, Rasheed and Hasan, I say, "Godspeed." ●

HEROES SHINE IN NORTH DAKOTA FLOOD

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as my colleagues in the Senate are well aware, one of the Nation's worst weather-related disasters of the year was the devastating flooding in Grand Forks, ND and the entire Red River Valley. This historic flood captured the attention of the Nation in late spring as over 95 percent of the residents of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks were evacuated from their homes and much of North Dakota's second largest city's downtown district was ravaged by fire and water.

Disasters have a way of bringing out the true character of people, and that certainly was the case in North Dakota. History will have a dramatic record of the loss and devastation of